



THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

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NCCAT Golden Apple GALA & SILENT AUCTION

Gala night in Raleigh

How do friends and supporters of NCCAT feel about an elegant auction event to benefit North Carolina's teachers? Sold! That was the sentiment of the crowd and the most popular word of the evening during the Gala held Saturday (February 25) at the Capital City Club in Raleigh. From the excitement of the bidding to the pleasure of supporting an honorable cause, the festive black-tie occasion will long be remembered as a wonderful tribute to NCCAT's twenty years of caring support for teachers.

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Long-time supporters and brand new friends turned out in their elegant best for the NCCAT Golden Apple Gala. The black-tie evening in Raleigh commemorated the twentieth anniversary of NCCAT's establishment to advance the art and profession of teaching in North Carolina. More than 300 guests enjoyed music and hors d'oeuvres during silent and live auctions. Proceeds will enhance and expand NCCAT programs.

But the Gala was much more than a fundraising event, according to Kenneth Wells of Hertford, chairman of the board of trustees. "NCCAT's contributions to the quality of life in North Carolina became evident to many of our guests," he said. "The Gala provided increased visibility for our mission and allowed us to showcase the value and importance of training and retaining teachers."

More than 150 items were donated for auction, including vacation trips, tickets to major sporting events, sports memorabilia, and gift certificates to fine restaurants. A variety of services, from catering to piano playing, were auctioned. Lucky bidders also took home gift baskets, crafts, home furnishings, and unique art objects.

"The Gala was everything we had hoped for, and more," said Richard Schwartz of Raleigh, president of the Development Foundation of NCCAT,



which sponsored the Gala. “We made some good money for the foundation, and we made some great friends. It was a ‘friendraiser’ and a fundraiser that was a lot of fun.”

The auctioneers included Schwartz, and William Ivey Long and Will McIntyre, who are members of the foundation’s board of directors. McIntyre and Cherri Cheek, an NCCAT trustee, co-chaired the Gala.

Sponsors were Rex Healthcare, University of North Carolina Television, Wachovia Bank, Duke Energy, M.B. Kahn Construction Company, Schwartz and Shaw Attorneys at Law, Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, PPLC, and Governor and Mrs. James B. Hunt Jr., Capital Investor Group, Larry and Cherri Cheek, Golden Corral, McIntyre Photography Inc., University of North Carolina General Administration, Progress Energy, Visiting International Faculty Program, Ken and Donna Wells, David Allen and Company, Capital Development Services, North Carolina’s Northeast Partnership, East Carolina Bank, Partnership for Excellence, North Carolina Association of School Administrators, Andy Shaw Ford, Ocracoke Civic and Business Association, Smith Barney Citigroup, and Western Carolina University.



GALA PHOTOS BY BERNARD J. CARPENTER

Book learning takes on new meaning

The seminar, “Books: Bound to Be Read,” gave participating teachers the opportunity to examine books from cover to cover, without reading a word. Meanwhile, they discovered how to help their students create books to fill with their own stories and illustrations.

Nina Bagley of Sylva, a visiting presenter for the December seminar, explained: “We deconstructed a book—removed its cover, gutted its interior—and then rebuilt it using all kinds of materials and filling it with pages that have pockets.” The teachers then chose themes for their one-of-a-kind creations. “One teacher made a book for her mother’s eightieth birthday. A coach made a gift book for his wife. Another participant gathered inherited recipes and created a cookbook,” she said.

The seminar also featured guest speakers who engaged participants in discussions about the process of writing, how to help students enjoy reading and writing more, and how making books by hand can actually increase the desire to write.



PHOTO BY SANDRA BOWLING

Above, Nina Bagley of Sylva demonstrates book construction.

Thirty-three NC schools are Golden Apples

Thirty-three North Carolina schools achieved Golden Apple recognition from the Development Foundation of NCCAT for the 2004–05 year. Achieving the designation means that all teachers at the schools who are NCCAT alumni made contributions to the Annual Fund. Schools must have at least four alumni to qualify.

Of special note this year was North Ridge Elementary School, a Golden Apple school in Raleigh. Teachers there decided to honor the memory of fellow teacher and NCCAT alumna Nancy Dennen, who died last year, through their support of the Annual Fund. Dee Grantham, Annual Fund coordinator, took part in the ceremony where Dennen’s husband Mike received a special certificate.

The Golden Apple schools are Anderson Creek Primary, Bunnlevel; Apex High, Apex; Asheboro High, Asheboro; Bain Elementary, Charlotte; Bethel Elementary, Midland; Catawba Intermediate, Catawba; Colfax Elementary, Colfax; Corriher Lipe Middle, Landis; Easton Elementary, Winston-Salem; First Flight Elementary, Kill Devil Hills; Forest Hills High, Marshville; Gateway Education Center, Greensboro; Holbrook Elementary, Ft. Bragg; Hunter Elementary, Raleigh; Leaksville-Spray Elementary, Eden; Level Cross Elementary, Randleman; Macon Middle, Franklin; Oakwood Elementary, Hickory; North Ridge Elementary, Raleigh; Royal Oaks Elementary, Kannapolis; Scurlock Elementary, Raeford; Sedgefield Elementary, Greensboro; Stoneville Elementary, Stoneville; Swift Creek Elementary, Raleigh; Sycamore Lane Middle, Laurinburg; Timber Drive Elementary, Garner; Vandora Springs Elementary, Garner; Wake Forest-Rolesville High, Wake Forest; Warlick School, Gastonia; West Brunswick High, Shallotte; West Lincoln High, Lincolnton; White Oak Elementary, Cape Carteret; Wintergreen Primary, Greenville.

Flounder, fish tales, and economics

Teachers Donna Rollins and Becky Smothers hold up the catch of the day, a huge flounder caught off the coast of Ocracoke. Rollins, a school counselor at Miller Creek Elementary, and Smothers, a teacher at Douglass Elementary, were participating in the seminar “Salty Dogs and the Lore of the Sea” held in October.

“We knew ours had to be the biggest one, and since there were other fishermen around us, we had to show off our big catch,” said Rollins, who said the seminar experience, including the Pamlico Sound fishing expedition, helped her return to school feeling “renewed and ready to work harder to do a better job.”

The teachers took away more from the week than big fish stories. “I learned so much about the fishing industry and the difficult future that fishermen face,” Rollins said of the uncertain waters ahead for North Carolina coastal fishermen. Like small farmers, shopkeepers, or others trying to make a living in our changing economy, fishermen face challenges such as increasing regulations, cheap imports, and the rising costs for fuel, equipment, and dockage. Overall, they work hard and take many risks involving dangerous weather and face costly repairs of exposed equipment. All the while, fishermen are losing the shoreline property where their boats and fish houses are located to condominiums and other developments.

The seminar increased participants’ awareness of the North Carolina fishing industry and informed them of the issues facing fishermen, providing knowledge of important issues they can share with their students.



PHOTO BY SANDRA BOWLING

Above, (left to right): Donna Rollins of Purllear, and Becky Smothers of Eden.

Dean Whichard will retire



Willis P. Whichard of Buies Creek, vice-president of the board of directors of the Development Foundation of NCCAT, will retire as dean of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University at the end of the 2005–06 academic year. He has been a professor and dean at Campbell since 1999.

Whichard has had a long and distinguished professional career as a North Carolina Supreme Court justice, attorney, and state legislator. He is the only North Carolinian in the history of the state to serve in both houses of the state legislature and on both of the state’s appellate courts. He is a longtime supporter of NCCAT and is currently serving his third term on the foundation board. He established the Beulah Padgett Whichard Honored Educator Scholarship at NCCAT in honor of his mother, who was a teacher.

Cultural diversity is Latino seminar topic

José and Flora Isasi of Winston-Salem, the Cuban-American founders of major Spanish-speaking media outlets in North Carolina, talked about their newspaper, *Qué Pasa*, with teachers James Roa of Warsaw and Bami Caulker of Raleigh. The

Isasis were visiting presenters for an NCCAT seminar for teachers, “New Neighbors: Latinos in North Carolina” held in February. The seminar was designed to help North Carolina teachers respond to the rising numbers of Latino students.

During the five-day seminar, the Isasis shared their views about family and educational issues facing Latino immigrants. Emphasizing the essential role of teachers in the lives of all children, José Isasi told the seminar participants, “I salute you. There is no more important profession than teaching.” He told the teachers



PHOTO BY CHRISTY MCCARLEY

Above, (left to right): James Roa of Warsaw, Bami Caulker of Raleigh, and José and Flora Isasi of Winston-Salem.

that Latinos in North Carolina face an important issue—making education a top priority in their lives and for their children. Isasi is president and chief operating officer of Latino Communications Inc., which owns *Qué Pasa*, the oldest Spanish-language newspaper in North Carolina, several radio stations, and is expanding into the television industry.

Roa and Caulker were participants in the seminar. A teacher at Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary in Rose Hill, Roa came to the United States from Colombia five years ago through the Visiting International Faculty program to become a teacher here. “I realized when I came that there are so many Hispanic students and parents who need help that I decided to stay,” Roa said. Caulker, a teacher at Henderson Middle, came to the United States about ten years ago from West Africa, where he had taught school. In North Carolina, he enrolled in a lateral-entry program and, after fulfilling the state’s requirements, began teaching.

Former center fellow publishes novel

Jeri Fitzgerald Board of Tryon, a former member of the NCCAT faculty, recently published a novel. Set in Bentonville, *The Bed She Was Born In* traces the lives of five women during turbulent times in American history from the Civil War to women’s suffrage. A center fellow at NCCAT in the late 1980s, Board has taught elementary, middle, and high school in North Carolina. She also has been on the faculty at Duke University and a staff member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and St. Andrews College.

Book Discussion

At right, Jennie Lowe of Pilot Mountain and Jerold Bryant of Atlanta, Georgia, take a moment to talk about books between seminar sessions. Both were at NCCAT in November in similar roles—to inspire and encourage North Carolina teachers. Bryant, an author and motivational speaker, was a guest presenter for “Achieving Against All Odds,” a seminar that focused on helping teachers find the best ways to motivate disadvantaged children and to nurture the will to succeed. Lowe, who teaches reading and language arts at Franklin Elementary in Mount Airy, was serving as a facilitator during a support seminar for teachers working toward certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.



PHOTO BY NATALIE ELDERS

More scholarships endowed

Thanks to generous contributions from across the state, six more NCCAT scholarship funds have reached the endowment level of \$25,000. They are the Boyce Dietz Scholarship, the Robert and Hattie Bridges Scholarship, the Luz Frye Scholarship, the William Byrum Scholarship, and the Phillip Kirk Scholarship. All are part of the Honored Educators Scholarship program.

The Coach Boyce Dietz Scholarship was founded by a group of his former players, friends, and family. It is designated for teachers from Swain and Jackson counties. The Robert and Hattie Bridges Scholarship honors two well-known North Carolina educators and is designated for teachers from Wake County. The Luz M. Frye Scholarship, named for an NCCAT alumna, benefits foreign language teachers. The William Byrum Scholarship supports teachers from Perquimans County. It was created to honor the former teacher, principal, and school administrator who also served as chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Education. The Phillip Kirk Scholarship is named for the former chairman of the State Board of Education. It is for teachers from any district in North Carolina.

These scholarships supplement NCCAT’s state budget allocation, making it possible to expand programming and to serve more teachers as well as providing a way for students, friends, families, and institutions to recognize great educators. To make a contribution or for more information, contact the Development Office at 828-293-5202 or at www.nccat.org.

Talk about teaching

Beginning teachers Trevor Stewart of Whittier, an English teacher at Swain County High, and Khalilah Myers of Charlotte, a biology teacher at Olympic High, share thoughts at “Connect to Your Future: Celebrating Success in the Classroom,” held last November. The seminar focused on building awareness and addressing the needs of teachers in the second or third years of their careers. The seminar was designed to provide teachers with practical tools meant to make their classroom experience better and more productive. It covered topics such as classroom management, dealing with the unforeseen, understanding and connecting with students, teaching and learning styles, and other issues, in a setting of professional renewal and growth.



PHOTO BY BARBARA MACON

Silence and snow

In a moment of solitary contemplation and reflection, a participant in NCCAT's "The Heart of Teaching" is inspired by the fleeting snow as she takes a moment to write in a journal. "The Heart of Teaching" held in January is a sequence of eight unique weekend retreats scheduled at NCCAT over a two-year period. Master teachers gather at the retreat to explore what inspires great teaching and to study their own professional and life experience through introspection, writing, art, nature, dialogue, and silence.

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Address newsletter inquiries to: Christy McCarley, Editor. Email:
mccarley@nccat.org

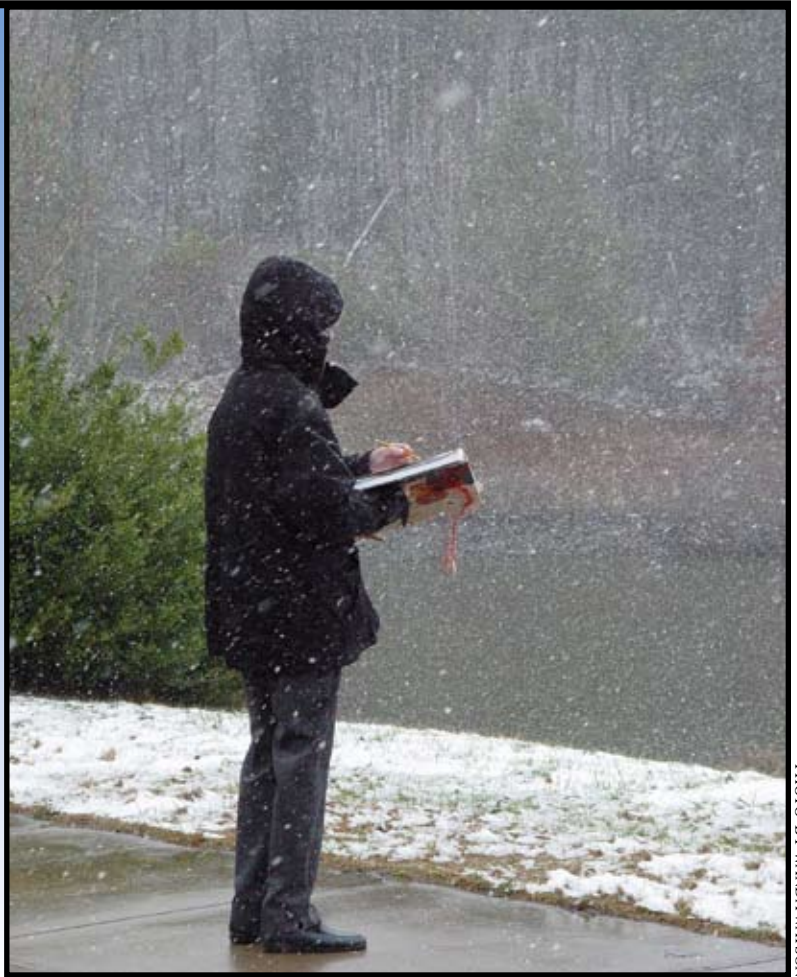


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